

ISLĀM FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE is intended for children aged six to eleven years. It outlines the basic beliefs of Islām and presents a brief sketch of the life of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), the five basic Islamic duties, a selection of stories and four short sūrahs (chapters) of the Qur'ān. The author has attempted to present the topics in lucid and easily understood language. This book will go a long way towards laying down the initial foundation on which a child will grow as a Muslim within non-Muslim society.

GHULAM SARWAR is the Director of the Muslim Educational Trust. He has an Honours Degree in Commerce and a Masters Degree in Management from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. For three years he taught Business Management in the City College, Chittagong, Bangladesh (1966-1968) and since the early sixties he is actively involved in the Islamic Da'wah work. His written works include : *Islām : Beliefs and Teachings* (London, 3rd Edition 1984), *Syllabus and Guidelines for Islamic Teaching* (London, 2nd Edition 1984), *Muslims and Education in the U.K.* (London, 1983), *Books on Islām in English* (London, 1983), and *The Children's Book of Salāh* (London, 1984).

THE MUSLIM EDUCATIONAL TRUST is an educational organisation formed in 1966 to cater for the Islamic educational needs of Muslim children in the United Kingdom. Its activities include sending Islamic teachers to the State-run Secondary and Primary Schools, arranging Weekend and Evening schools, preparation and publication of Islamic text books and teaching aids for children and promoting a better understanding of Islam among all sections of the British Society.

ISBN 0 907261-08-6

Price in UK £

ISLAM for Younger People

Ghulam
Sarwar

THE MUSLIM EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Zosina

Amina



ISLAM

FOR
**younger
people**

GHULAM SARWAR



The Muslim Educational Trust

©The Muslim Educational Trust/ Ghulam Sarwar 1406 A H/1986 C E

ISBN 0-907261-08-6

First Edition, 1981, (10,000) copies
Second Edition, 1984, (12,000) copies
Reprinted 1986 (20,000) copies

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by means of electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owners.



British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Sarwar, Ghulam
Islām for younger people — 2nd Edition
1. Islām — Juvenile literature
I. Title II. Muslim Educational Trust
297 BP161.2

ISBN 0-907261-08-6

Printed and bound in Great Britain by
Edwin Packer & Johnson Ltd.,
Nottingham.

CONTENTS

Foreword	4
Author's Preface	5
Allāh	7
Allāh Knows Everything	10
Islām and Muslim	14
Caring for Parents	17
Īmān	19
Angels	21
Messengers of Allāh	23
Books of Allāh	28
Life after Death	30
The Qur'ān	33
Prophet Muḥammad (pbuh)	36
Telling the Truth	47
Words and Actions should be same	49
Five Basic Duties of Islām	51
Ash-Shahādah	52
Aṣ-Ṣalāh	53
Az-Zakāh	56
Aṣ-Ṣawm	57
Al-Ḥajj	58
Islamic Manners	60
Four Sūrahs of the Qur'ān	61



FOREWORD

The early years of a child are crucial because the impressions formed then play an important role in the process of personality formation for later life. Since the foundation for the future is laid at this important stage, so the education provided at this stage deserves the maximum attention and care. The Muslims of Britain are aware of this fact.

They are struggling hard to preserve their cultural identity, and so to settle honourably in this new homeland. A materialist philosophy, characteristic of the West, and a luxurious way of life are causing Muslims to drift away from their spiritual and moral norms. They wish their children to grow as Muslims, but they have not been able to establish their own institutions for their education and to achieve this cherished goal.

The Muslim Educational Trust has plans to establish such institutions. The Trust is striving to educate young Muslims and save them from the onslaughts of society. As well as providing Islamic education in State schools and Islamic centres, the Trust is producing suitable reading material for young Muslims.

Mr Ghulam Sarwar, the Director of the Trust, has applied his expertise and put in a great deal of effort to prepare this book *Islām for Younger People*. To write a book that is suitable for young readers is a challenging task. The author has gone a long way to meeting the challenge by making this book simple, interesting, attractive and above all, useful. He has presented all the necessary information in small units in a way which appeals to young minds and leaves vivid impressions on them. This quality has given the book its real value.

I hope and pray that this publication of the Muslim Educational Trust will prove useful to all those working in the field of Islamic education.

Habīb ur Rahmān
Chairman,

The Muslim Educational Trust.

11 Rajab 1401 A H
16 May 1981 CE

AUTHOR'S PREFACE to the first edition

With all humbleness I express my deep gratitude to the Almighty Allāh who has enabled me to write this book — ISLĀM FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE.

There have been commendable efforts in the past to produce books on Islām for children aged between six and eleven years. Nevertheless the need for more books is still there; hence this attempt.

It is very difficult to present the abstract ideas of Islām, or for that matter of any religion, in simple and easily understood language. I have ventured to cross the barrier and it is for the teachers and parents to judge my success.

Muslims who are permanently settled in the West must ponder seriously on the cultural and ideological future of their children. Only a well planned solid foundation at the initial stage could sustain young people through the painful disappointments of the future, when remedial measures would bear less fruit. This book, will I hope be able to lay that initial foundation.

Mr David Browne of RTE, Irish Radio and Television, deserves my sincere thanks for editing the book and making useful improvements. I am indebted to Maulāna Habīb ur Rahmān, Chairman of the Trust, for going through the manuscript and making valuable suggestions. Brother Muḥammad Muṣṭafa deserves my appreciation for illustrating the book. I pray to Allāh for my daughters, Parveen, Yasmeen and Nasreen, who took great interest in reading the drafts and helped me in understanding what goes on in the mind of a young person for whom the book is intended.

My efforts will be fruitful if the book encourages young Muslims to learn about Islām. I would welcome gratefully any suggestions about the book. Finally, I implore Allāh to accept my humble effort and grant me pardon in the life hereafter.

14 Rajab 1401 AH
19 May 1981 CE

Ghulam Sarwar

Note to the Second Edition :

Alḥamdu lillāh (All praise is for Allāh), the first edition of my book 'Islām for younger people' has been sold within a shorter period than I expected. The second edition is now before the readers. I hope it will continue to receive the patronage of parents, teachers and booksellers.

May Allāh accept my humble efforts. Amīn.

Ramādān, 1404 AH
June, 1984 CE

Ghulam Sarwar

الله
تعالى

ALLĀH

Dear Children!

Look at this page.

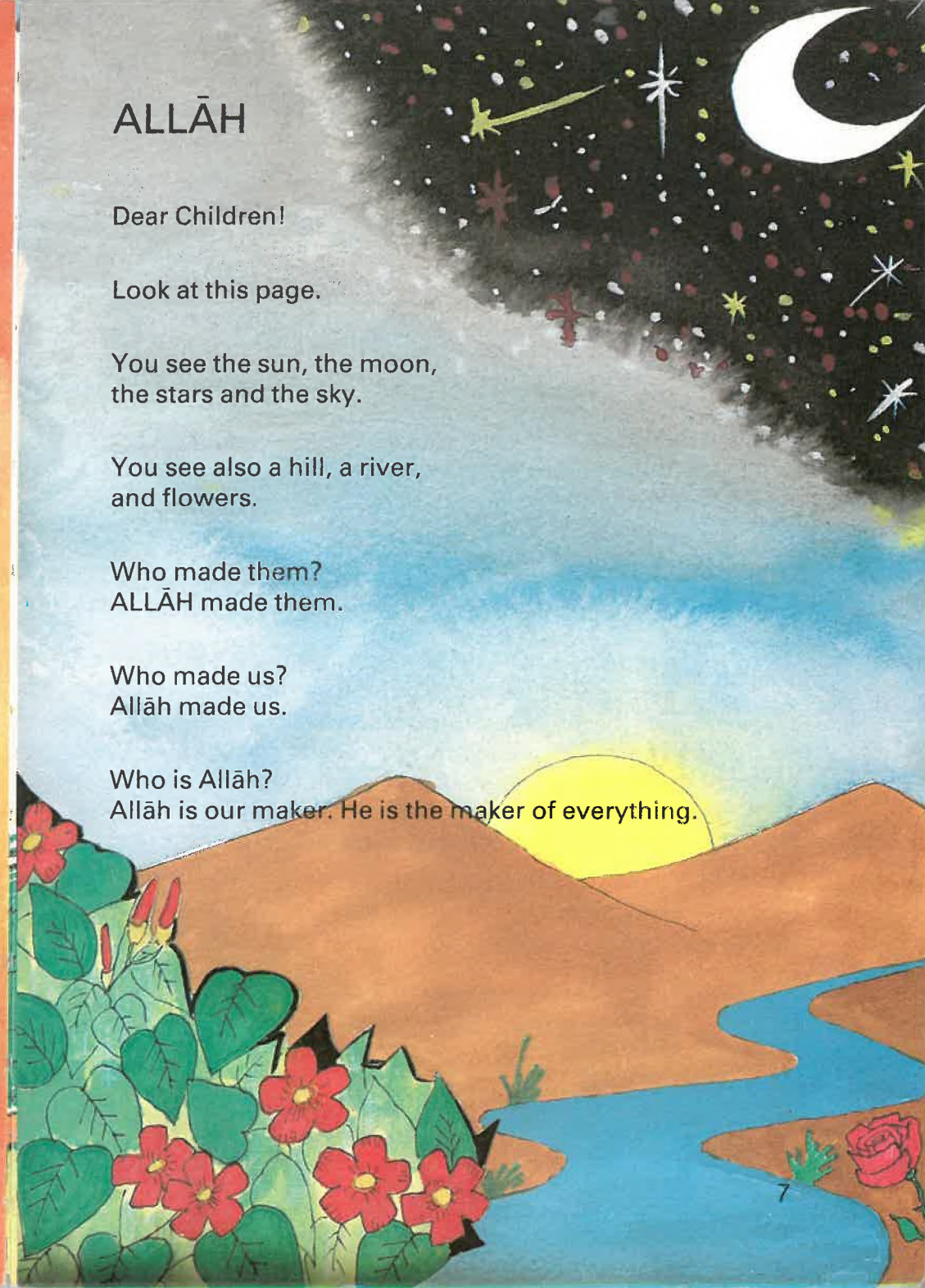
You see the sun, the moon,
the stars and the sky.

You see also a hill, a river,
and flowers.

Who made them?
ALLĀH made them.

Who made us?
Allāh made us.

Who is Allāh?
Allāh is our maker. He is the maker of everything.



Where is Allāh?

Allāh is with us all the time. He knows everything at all places and at all times.

What does Allāh do?

Allāh controls the universe and all that is in it.

Is Allāh one?

Yes, Allāh is One.

Who created Allāh?

No one created Allāh. He was there in the first place and will always be. He is the First and the Last.

Has Allāh any partner?

No, Allāh has no partner.

Has Allāh a father or a mother?

No, Allāh has no father or mother.

Has Allāh any sons or daughters?

No, Allāh has no sons or daughters.

What are we to Allāh?

We are Allāh's servants.

What is Allāh to us?

Allāh is our Lord and Master.

Why has Allāh made us?

Allāh has made us to worship and obey Him. Allāh says in the Qur'ān : "Indeed, I created Jinn and mankind for no other purpose but to worship me". (51 : 56)

Can we see Allāh?

No, we cannot see Allāh.

Does Allāh see us?

Yes, Allāh sees us all the time.

ALLĀH is the Almighty. He is very Kind and Loving. He has given us everything we have. He has given us our fathers and mothers and our brothers and sisters who care for us and love us. He gives us food, water, light, air and all that we need. We and everything on this earth belong to Allāh.



ALLĀH KNOWS EVERYTHING

Mr Ḥasan had three sons : Fārūq, 'Abdullāh and Qāsim. He loved them very much. He wanted to see them grow up as good Muslims. Mr Ḥasan himself was a good Muslim. He did his best to obey all commands of Allāh.

One day, Mr Ḥasan thought to test his sons. He gave each of them some sweets and said, "Eat the sweets in such a place where no one can see you, and when you have done so, come back to me."

Fārūq took the sweets and went to his room. He shut the door from the inside and ate the sweets, thinking that no one could see him there.

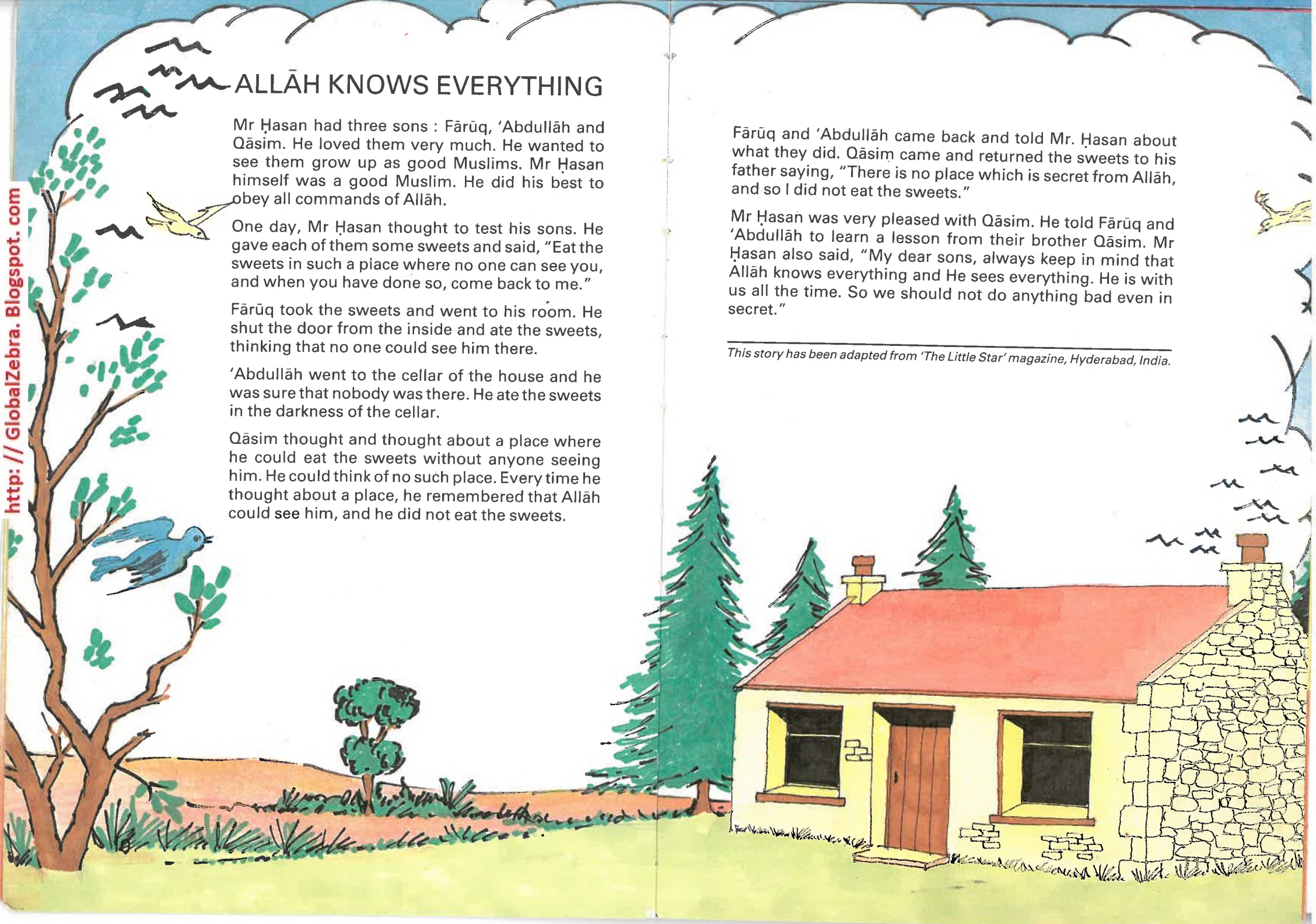
'Abdullāh went to the cellar of the house and he was sure that nobody was there. He ate the sweets in the darkness of the cellar.

Qāsim thought and thought about a place where he could eat the sweets without anyone seeing him. He could think of no such place. Every time he thought about a place, he remembered that Allāh could see him, and he did not eat the sweets.

Fārūq and 'Abdullāh came back and told Mr. Ḥasan about what they did. Qāsim came and returned the sweets to his father saying, "There is no place which is secret from Allāh, and so I did not eat the sweets."

Mr Ḥasan was very pleased with Qāsim. He told Fārūq and 'Abdullāh to learn a lesson from their brother Qāsim. Mr Ḥasan also said, "My dear sons, always keep in mind that Allāh knows everything and He sees everything. He is with us all the time. So we should not do anything bad even in secret."

This story has been adapted from 'The Little Star' magazine, Hyderabad, India.





Know child that Allāh is one,
And has no partner or son;
He is with you all the time,
Wherever you are,
He is there.

WORKSHEET 1

Answer these questions :

- 1 Who is our Maker? _____
- 2 Why has Allāh made us? _____

- 3 Where is Allāh? _____

- 4 Does Allāh see us? _____

- 5 Has Allāh a son or daughter? _____

Fill in the blanks :

- a Allāh is our _____ and _____
- b _____ has made us to _____ and _____ Him.
- c Allāh is very _____ and _____.
- d Allāh _____ us all the _____.

ISLĀM AND MUSLIM

We have already learned about Allāh.
Now we should know about ISLĀM and MUSLIM.
ISLĀM is an Arabic word.

What is ISLĀM?
ISLĀM is our way of life.

What does Islām mean?
Islām means to obey Allāh and follow His commands.
If we obey Allāh and do as He commands, we will have peace.
That is why Islām also means peace.

Islām teaches us to lead a good life on this earth. It tells us how to live as good people. It also tells us that Allāh is our Maker and Master. Islām shows us the right way. If we follow Islām, we achieve peace. So, Islām is a great blessing for us.

How did we come to know about Islām?
We came to know about Islām from the messengers and prophets of Allāh.

Who is a Muslim?
A Muslim is a person who follows Islām.
If we follow Islām, Allāh gives us peace and happiness.

A Muslim will always try to do good. He speaks the truth. He will not lie. He helps others. He cares for the old and the needy. He does not like bad things. He does as Allāh commands him.

We feel proud to be Muslims. Allāh has given us the name Muslim.

O ALLĀH, MAKE US GOOD MUSLIMS.

WORKSHEET 2

a Fill in the blanks :

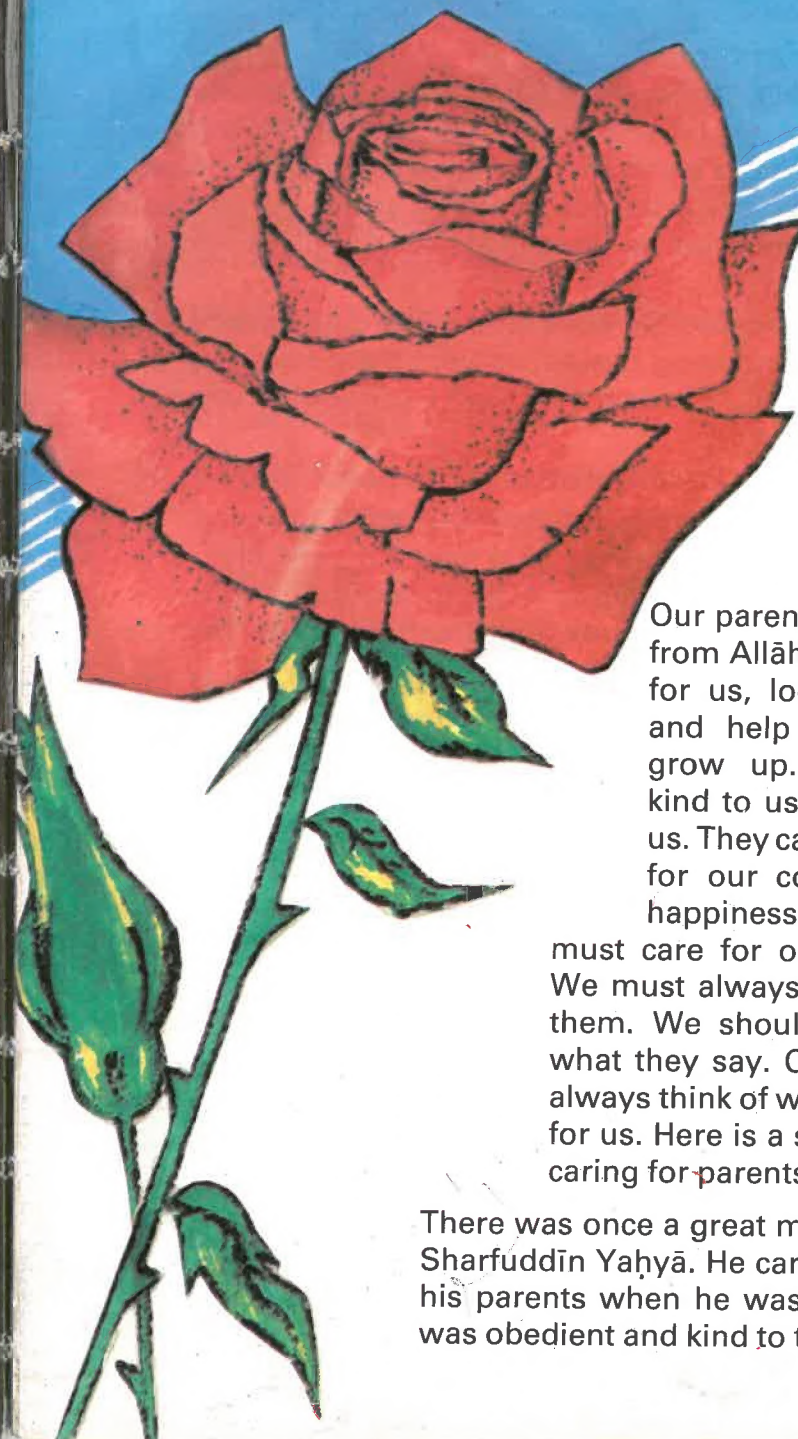
- 1 Islām is an _____ word.
- 2 Islām means to _____ Allāh and to follow His _____.
- 3 _____ is our way of life.
- 4 Islam teaches us how to _____ a _____ life on this earth.

b Answer these questions :

- 1 Who is a Muslim?

- 2 What does a Muslim do?

CARING FOR PARENTS



Our parents are a gift from Allāh. They care for us, look after us and help us as we grow up. They are kind to us. They love us. They care so much for our comfort and happiness. So, we must care for our parents. We must always be kind to them. We should listen to what they say. Our parents always think of what is good for us. Here is a story about caring for parents.

There was once a great man, named Sharfuddīn Yaḥyā. He cared a lot for his parents when he was a boy. He was obedient and kind to them. 17

ĪMĀN (Belief)

One night his mother was thirsty and asked Sharfuddīn for a glass of water. When Sharfuddīn came to his mother with the glass of water, he found her asleep. He did not think it wise to disturb his mother's sleep. So, he kept standing there with the glass in his hand until his mother awoke.

His mother opened her eyes after a few hours and found Sharfuddīn standing beside her with the glass of water. She asked him, "My dear son, have you been standing all this time?"

Sharfuddīn said, "Yes mother, I have been waiting for you to wake up, to give you a glass of water."

Sharfuddīn's mother was very pleased with him. She blessed him and prayed to Allāh to make Sharfuddīn a great man. When he grew up, Sharfuddīn was really a very great man of his time.

Children! you should care for your parents like Sharfuddīn did. Never say a harsh word to them. Obey what they say. Behave well with your parents. Do your best at school. Then your parents will be happy. Allāh, too will be happy with you. Indeed, Allāh commands us to be good to our parents.

A good Muslim child is kind to his parents. He cares for them.

Here we will learn about ĪMĀN.

ĪMĀN is an Arabic word.

What does Īmān mean?

Īmān means belief or faith.

To be a good Muslim, we must believe in :

- 1 ALLĀH
- 2 ALLĀH'S ANGELS (Malā'ikah)
- 3 BOOKS OF ALLĀH (Kutubullāh)
- 4 ALLĀH'S MESSENGERS (Rusulullāh)
- 5 THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT (Yawmil Ākhir)
- 6 DESTINY (Al-Qadr)
- 7 LIFE AFTER DEATH (Ākhirah)

One who has Īmān is called a MU'MIN.

A Muslim is also a Mu'min.

The seven beliefs are given in AL-ĪMĀNUL MUFAṢṢAL (Faith in detail) :

أَمَنْتُ بِاللَّهِ وَمَلَائِكَتِهِ وَكُتُبِهِ وَرُسُلِهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَالْقَدْرِ
خَيْرِهِ وَشَرِّهِ مِنَ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى وَالْبَعْثِ بَعْدَ الْمَوْتِ ۝

"Āmantu billāhi wa malā'ikatihī wa kutubihī wa rusulihī
wal yawmil ākhiri wal qadri khairihī wa sharrihī minal
lāhi ta 'ālā wal ba'thi ba 'dal mawt."

This means :

I believe in Allāh, in His angels, in His books, in His messengers, in the last day, in the fact that everything good or bad, is from Allāh, the Almighty, and in the life after death.

ANGELS (Malā'ikah)

Allāh has made us. He has made everything.
Allāh has also made angels.

Who are the angels?

Angels are the servants of Allāh.

Are they different from us? Yes, they are different from us. We are made from clay but Angels are made from Nūr (Allāh's light). We have free will but angels do not have any free will.

What do the angels do?

The angels carry out the orders of Allāh. They always obey Him. They can never disobey Allāh. They are always ready to obey Allāh's commands.

There are a lot of angels.

Some of the great angels are :

- 1 JIBRĀ'ĪL (Gabriel)
- 2 MIKĀ'ĪL (Michael)
- 3 'IZRĀ'ĪL (Azrail or Malakul Mawt).
- 4 ISRĀFĪL (Israfil)

Everything we say or do is written down by some angels. The angels who write down what we do are called KIRĀMAN KĀTIBĪN or Recording Angels.

Worksheet 3

Answer these questions :

- 1 What is ĪMĀN? Iman is
- 2 What are the seven beliefs of a Muslim?
 - 1 Allah
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
 - 6
 - 7
- 3 What do the Angels do?
- 4 Write the names of four Angels :
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4



MESSENGERS OF ALLĀH

Allāh is our Creator and Master.

He has given us everything to make our life happy and comfortable.

Why has Allāh made us?

Allāh has made us to worship and obey Him.

How did Allāh tell us to worship and obey Him?

Allāh told us through His prophets and messengers to worship and obey Him.

Who are the prophets and messengers of Allāh?

The prophets and messengers are Allāh's chosen people. Allāh sent His guidance to them through the angel Jibrā'īl (Gabriel).

What did the prophets and messengers say to us?

They told us and showed us how to obey and worship Allāh.

Why must we obey and worship Allāh?

We must obey and worship Allāh to please Him. If Allāh is pleased with us, He will make us happy in this life. He will also reward us with Paradise in the life after death. We must worship and obey Him because He has made us and has given us all that we have.

We can only please Allāh if we follow the guidance given to the prophets and messengers.

A prophet is called a NABĪ in Arabic and a messenger is called a RASŪL. A prophet (Nabī) did not get a book from Allāh, but a messenger (Rasūl) did get one. All the prophets and messengers called people to worship and obey Allāh alone.

Who was the first prophet?

The first prophet was Ādam (peace be upon him). He was also the first man on earth.

Who was the last prophet of Allāh?

Muḥammad (peace be upon him) was the last and the final prophet of Allāh.

Between Ādam (pbuh) and Muḥammad (pbuh) there were many prophets and messengers.

All of them obeyed Allāh themselves and asked the people of their time to do the same. They never asked us to worship anyone except Allāh.

Did Allāh send prophets or messengers to each and every nation on earth?

Yes, Allāh sent prophets or messengers to each and every nation on earth.

All the prophets and messengers got the same message from Allāh.

What was this message?

This message was :

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

LĀ ILĀHA ILLAL LĀH

There is no god but Allāh.

So we now know that each and every prophet called people to obey and worship Allāh only.

Some of the prophets mentioned in the Qur'ān are :



(PEACE BE UPON THEM)

Why did Allāh send so many prophets?

Allāh sent prophets to every nation. But when people forgot the message of Allāh, He sent another prophet to remind them of their duty to Him.

Allāh completed His message with Muḥammad (pbuh). There shall be no prophet after him. He is the last of all the prophets and messengers.

The complete message which Allāh gave to Muḥammad (pbuh) is ISLĀM. It is the complete guidance for all mankind until the end of the world.

We will be happy and find peace if we only follow Islām.

Worksheet 4

Answer these questions :

1 Who are the messengers of Allāh?

2 Who was the first prophet? _____

3 Write the names of six great prophets :

1 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

5 _____ 6 _____

4 Who is the last prophet of Allāh?

5 What did the prophets and messengers say to us?

BOOKS OF ALLĀH

We know that Allāh sent prophets and messengers to show us the right path.

Our Kind and Loving Creator also sent books for our guidance. He sent them to His messengers.

These books are called the books of Allāh.

How did Allāh send the books of guidance to His messengers?

Allāh sent the books through the angel Jibrā'īl. The books of guidance sent by Allāh are also called books of revelation. Revelation is called WAḤĪ in Arabic.

The book sent down to the last prophet Muḥammad (pbuh) is called the Qur'ān.

The Qur'ān has in it the names of the other books which were sent down by Allāh to earlier messengers before Muḥammad (pbuh).

The book given to the prophet Ibrāhīm (pbuh) is called ṢAḤĪFAH (scrolls).

The prophet Mūsā (pbuh) was given TAWRĀT (Torah).

The prophet Dāwūd (pbuh) was given ZABŪR (Psalms)

The prophet 'Īsā (pbuh) was given INJĪL (Gospel).

Books given to the prophets before Muḥammad (pbuh) were either lost or changed by their followers.

The Ṣaḥīfah of Ibrāhīm (pbuh) cannot be found now. The Zabūr, the Tawrāt and the Injil have been changed by their followers. They added their own words to Allāh's words. This is why we do not get these books as they came in first.

The QUR'ĀN is the complete book of guidance from Allāh, it is with us today, without any change, with nothing added or taken away. It is the last book of guidance for mankind from Allāh.

To be happy in this world and in the life after death, we must follow the guidance given in the Qur'ān.



LIFE AFTER DEATH AND THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT

We know that one day we will die. Everybody dies sometime. Allāh will make us alive again after our death and ask us about how we behaved on earth. Those people who obeyed Allāh's commands shall be rewarded. Those who did not, shall be punished.

One day, everything on this earth, the sky, the planets and all other things will be destroyed, on Allāh's command. Nobody but Allāh knows when that will happen.

Our life on earth is short. The real life which will never end is the life after death.

In the life after death, there will be a day called the Day of Judgement. On this day, Allāh will let people know who will be rewarded and who will be punished. Those who get reward will go to PARADISE, which is a place of happiness and joy. It is a beautiful and lovely place. Only good people will be there. Those who disobeyed Allāh will be terribly punished. They will be sent to HELL which is a place of pain and suffering. Only bad people will be there. Hell is a miserable and horrid place.

We must always try to follow Allāh's guidance, so that we can go to paradise (Al-Jannah).

**O ALLĀH, MAKE US GOOD MUSLIMS. GRANT US
PARADISE AND SAVE US FROM THE FIRE OF HELL.**



WORKSHEET 5

a Fill in the gaps :

- Books of Allāh are called _____ in Arabic.
- _____ sent the books of guidance through the Angel _____.
- Revelation is called _____ in Arabic.
- The book sent down to the last prophet, _____, is called the _____.

b Answer these questions :

- Which book was sent by Allāh to Dāwūd (David)?

- To whom was Injil (Gospel) revealed? _____
- Which is the final book of guidance from Allāh?

THE QUR'ĀN



Look at this picture.

What is it?

It is a page from the Qur'ān.

What is the Qur'ān?

The Qur'ān is the book of Allāh. Each word of the Qur'ān is the word of Allāh.

How was the Qur'ān revealed to the prophet Muḥammad (pbuh)?

Allāh revealed the Qur'ān in pieces through the Angel Jibra'īl. Jibra'īl passed on Allāh's words to Muḥammad (pbuh). Muḥammad (pbuh) asked his secretaries to write down exactly what Jibra'īl told him.

How long did it take to complete the Qur'ān?

The Qur'ān was completed over a period of 23 years.

Has there been any change in the Qur'ān?

No, there has been no change in the Qur'ān over the last 1400 years.

Why has the Qur'ān not been changed?

The Qur'ān has not been changed because Allāh protects it. Nobody can change it. Allāh says that He has sent it and He shall protect it.

What is the language of the Qur'ān?

The Qur'ān is in Arabic.

The Qur'ān is a wonderful book of guidance.

Its rhyme and rhythm are beautiful.

It gives us a nice feeling to read it.

The Qur'ān tells us how to be good and to give up bad habits. It tells us how to behave with our parents, brothers, sisters, friends and neighbours. Allāh says in the Qur'ān :

“Be kind to your parents and the relatives and the orphans and those in need and speak nicely to people.”

Allāh asked us to read the Qur'ān and follow what it says. We should learn to read the Qur'ān and understand its meaning. We will be happy and successful if we obey Allāh's commands which are in the Qur'ān.

The Qur'ān is the last and final book of guidance.

O ALLĀH, THE MERCIFUL, GUIDE US TO THE PATH OF THE QUR'ĀN.

worksheet 6

Answer these questions :

1 What will happen to us after we have died?

2 Who will be rewarded by Allāh?

3 What will happen to people who do not obey Allāh?

4 What will Allāh do on the Day of Judgement?

5 What is Paradise? _____

6 What is the Qur'ān? _____

7 To whom was the Qur'ān revealed? _____

8 What does the Qur'ān say to us about our parents?

PROPHET MUḤAMMAD (pbuh)

A great thing happened in the year 571.
In that year the prophet Muḥammad (peace be upon him) was born.

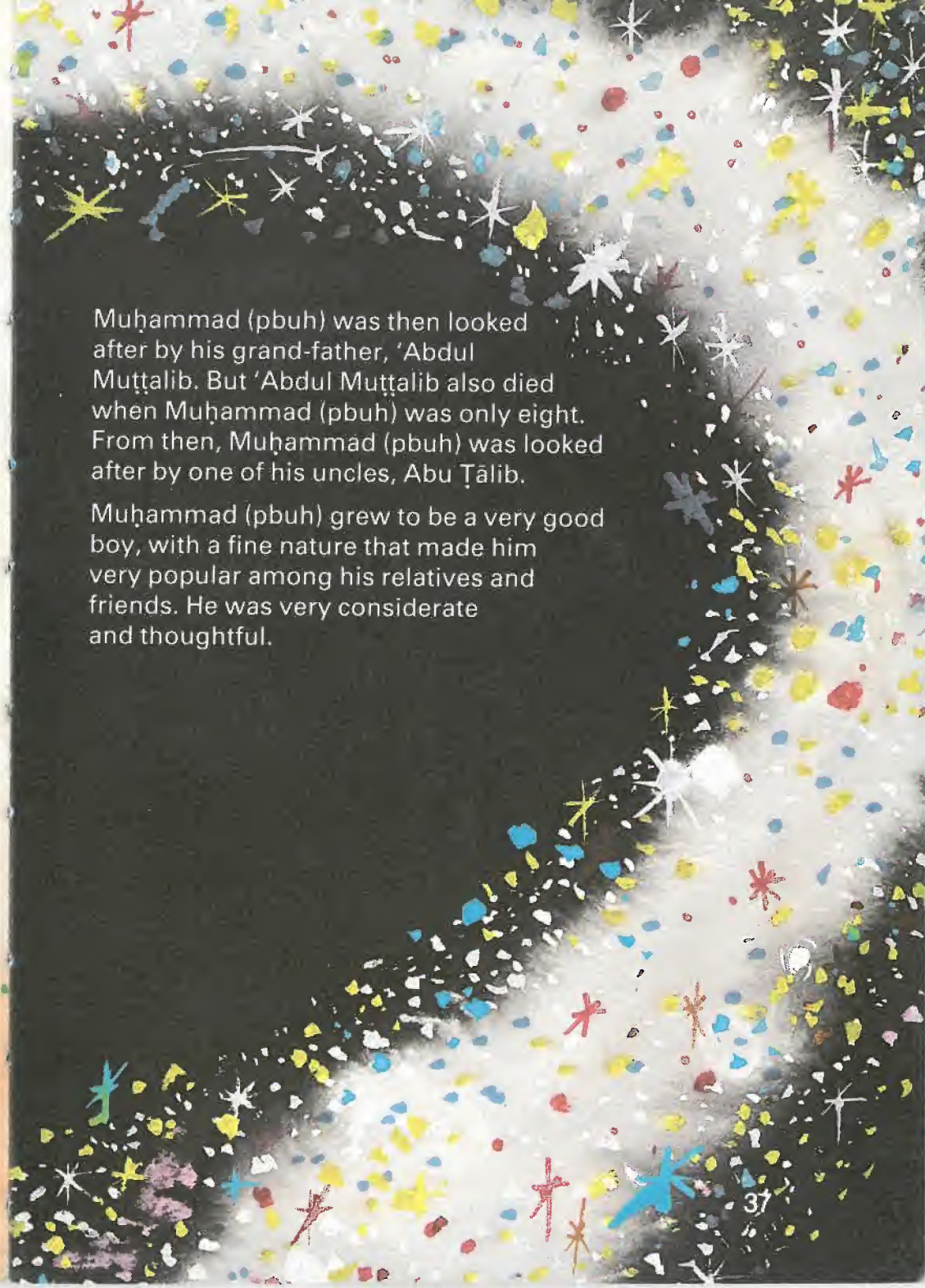
Where was he born?
He was born in Makkah in Saudi Arabia.

While still a young boy, Muḥammad (pbuh) had a number of heart-breaking shocks. His father 'Abdullāh died even before Muḥammad (pbuh) was born. His mother was Āminah. She died when Muḥammad (pbuh) was only six.



Muḥammad (pbuh) was then looked after by his grand-father, 'Abdul Muṭṭalib. But 'Abdul Muṭṭalib also died when Muḥammad (pbuh) was only eight. From then, Muḥammad (pbuh) was looked after by one of his uncles, Abu Ṭālib.

Muḥammad (pbuh) grew to be a very good boy, with a fine nature that made him very popular among his relatives and friends. He was very considerate and thoughtful.




While still only a boy, Muḥammad (pbuh) worked as a shepherd. While he tended the sheep, he used to think about the world around him, and about the people of Makkah where he lived.

The people of Makkah at that time had all sorts of bad habits. They used to quarrel a lot. They used to fight each other often and caused bloodshed. Muḥammad (pbuh) wondered why there should be so much bloodshed among his own people. He knew they were also brave and courageous. It seemed a pity that they did all the things Allāh disliked.

They forgot Allāh and had started to worship idols instead.

In his heart, Muḥammad (pbuh) felt sorry for them. He thought hard of ways to make the people of Makkah give up their bad habits and fighting. He wanted them to be good.



Muḥammad (pbuh) used to go into a cave called Ḥirā' in the Mount Nūr, not far from Makkah. There he could think deeply and meditate in the quietness, where he could be alone.

Muḥammad (pbuh) used to go to the cave Ḥirā' very often when he was older and grown up. One day when he was in the cave, the Angel Jibrā'il appeared to him.

The Angel told Muḥammad (pbuh) to read.

Muḥammad replied "I am not a reader."

The Angel squeezed him and told him again to read.

Muḥammad (pbuh) said again, "But I am not a reader."

The Angel squeezed him harder.

Then he released Muḥammad (pbuh) and told him once more to read.

Muḥammad (pbuh) was squeezed a third time, still harder.

This time when the Angel released him, he said to Muḥammad (pbuh):

"READ IN THE NAME OF YOUR LORD WHO CREATED!"

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

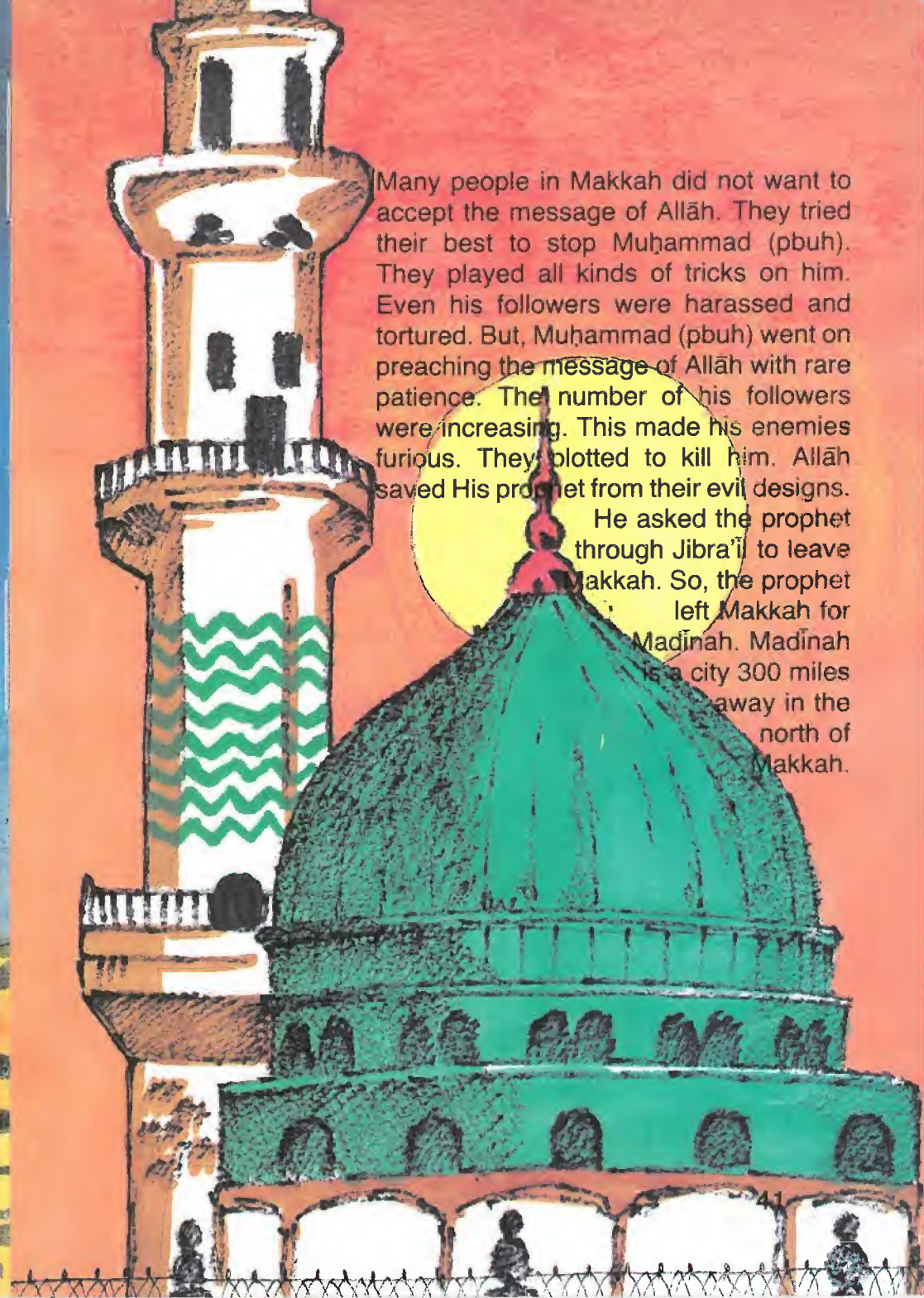
Muḥammad (pbuh) repeated the words after the Angel. He felt as if the words were printed on his heart.

This was the beginning of the Revelation. This was how Muḥammad (pbuh) was given the message from Allāh that he was to be a prophet from that time onwards. This happened in the year 610 CE (Christian era). Muḥammad (pbuh) was then 40 years old.

For the next 23 years, Muḥammad (pbuh) went on asking people to worship Allah alone and to give up treating false gods as partners of Allāh. He called on people to give up worshipping idols. The idols were stone statues which could not talk or move and could do nothing for the people who worshipped them.

Many people in Makkah did not want to accept the message of Allāh. They tried their best to stop Muḥammad (pbuh). They played all kinds of tricks on him. Even his followers were harassed and tortured. But, Muḥammad (pbuh) went on preaching the message of Allāh with rare patience. The number of his followers were increasing. This made his enemies furious. They plotted to kill him. Allāh saved His prophet from their evil designs.

He asked the prophet through Jibra'īl to leave Makkah. So, the prophet left Makkah for Madīnah. Madīnah is a city 300 miles away in the north of Makkah.



The people of Makkah were unfortunate. They treated the prophet badly. But the people of Madīnah were lucky. They welcomed him and accepted him as their leader. Later on, he returned to Makkah as a victorious man. He forgave his enemies. His greatness impressed them so much that many of them became Muslims.

Muḥammad (pbuh) did his best to see that Truth wins in the end and falsehood is defeated. He was a very good man. His manners were very pleasing. He could get on with everyone he met. He was a great man.

He loved children very much. Whenever he met children, he talked to them, patted them, and played with them.

When he reached Madīnah, little boys and girls greeted him along with the adults. The little girls sang a song welcoming him. The prophet was very pleased and the children were happy too, as they had the great man, the prophet amongst them.

Everyone who met him said Muḥammad (pbuh) was very pleasant.

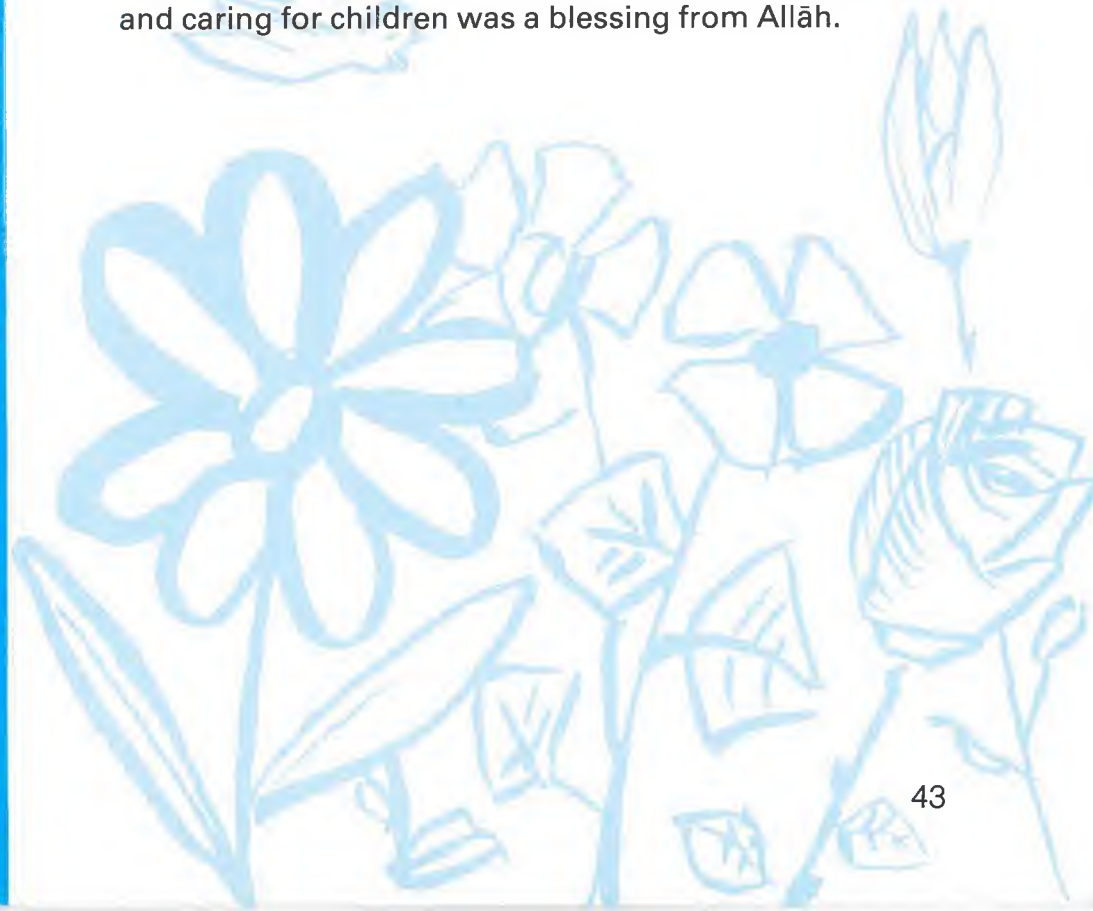
He was a very kind-hearted and caring person.

The prophet Muḥammad (pbuh) loved especially to be among children. One day, he was with a group of children, talking to them and playing with them.

The children were very happy to be with the prophet who was so kind to them.

A man arrived there and watched the children playing and laughing with Muḥammad (pbuh). The man was looking pale and unhappy. Muḥammad (pbuh) noticed this, and asked the man why he was unhappy. The man said, "I have ten children and I have never kissed them."

The prophet felt sorry for the man. He told him that loving and caring for children was a blessing from Allāh.

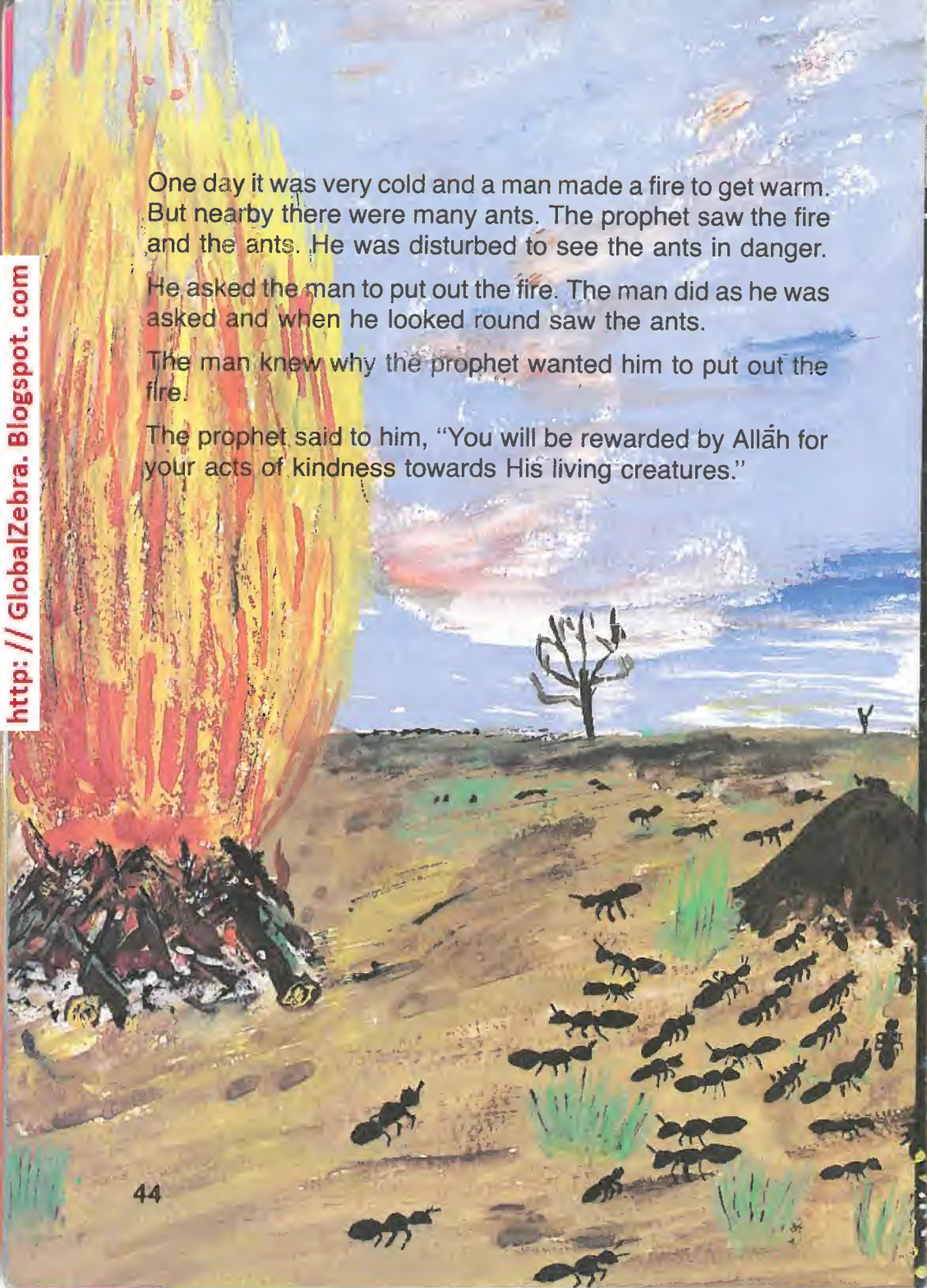


One day it was very cold and a man made a fire to get warm. But nearby there were many ants. The prophet saw the fire and the ants. He was disturbed to see the ants in danger.

He asked the man to put out the fire. The man did as he was asked and when he looked round saw the ants.

The man knew why the prophet wanted him to put out the fire.

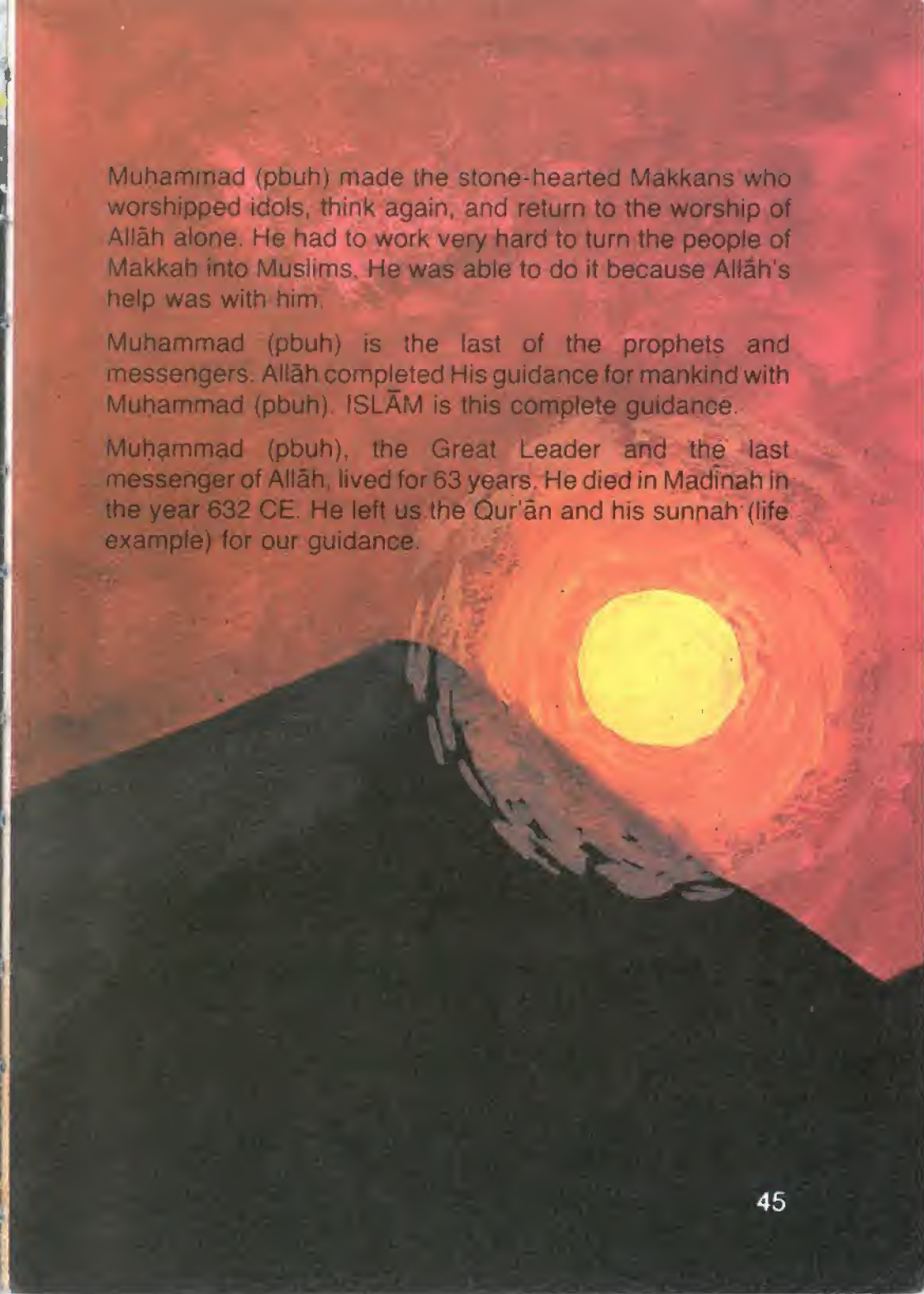
The prophet said to him, "You will be rewarded by Allāh for your acts of kindness towards His living creatures."



Muhammad (pbuh) made the stone-hearted Makkans who worshipped idols, think again, and return to the worship of Allāh alone. He had to work very hard to turn the people of Makkah into Muslims. He was able to do it because Allāh's help was with him.

Muhammad (pbuh) is the last of the prophets and messengers. Allāh completed His guidance for mankind with Muhammad (pbuh). ISLĀM is this complete guidance.

Muhammad (pbuh), the Great Leader and the last messenger of Allāh, lived for 63 years. He died in Madīnah in the year 632 CE. He left us the Qur'ān and his sunnah (life example) for our guidance.



worksheet 7

Answer these questions :

- 1 When was the prophet Muḥammad (pbuh) born?

- 2 Who was Muḥammad's (pbuh) father?

- 3 When did Muhammad's (pbuh) mother die?

- 4 Who looked after Muḥammad (pbuh), after his mother died?

- 5 Where was Muḥammad (pbuh) when the Angel Jibrā'il appeared to him?

- 6 In which year did Muḥammad (pbuh) become the prophet of Allah?

- 7 When did the prophet Muhammad (pbuh) die?

- 8 What did the prophet leave for our guidance?

TELLING THE TRUTH

Telling the truth is a very good habit. If you speak the truth always, you save yourself from a lot of trouble. Here is the story about a person who did a lot of bad things, but his promise to tell the truth saved him.

Once a man came to the prophet Muḥammad (pbuh) and said, "O prophet of Allāh, I have many bad habits. Which one of them should I give up first?" The prophet said, "Give up telling lies first and always speak the truth." The man promised to do so and went home.

At night the man was about to go out to steal. Before setting out, he thought for a moment about the promise he made with the prophet. "If tomorrow the prophet asks me where have I been, what shall I say? Shall I say that I went out stealing? No, I cannot say that. But nor can I lie. If I tell the truth, everyone will start hating me and call me a thief. I would be punished for stealing."

So the man decided not to steal that night, and gave up this bad habit.

Next day, he felt like drinking wine, when he was about to do so, he said to himself, "What shall I say to the prophet if he asks me what did I do during the day? I cannot tell a lie, and if I speak the truth people will hate me, because a Muslim is not allowed to drink wine." And so he gave up the idea of drinking wine.

In this way, whenever the man thought of doing something bad, he remembered his promise to tell the truth at all times. One by one, he gave up all his bad habits and became a good Muslim and a very good person.

If you always speak the truth, you can be a good person, a good Muslim whom Allāh likes and favours. If Allāh – our Creator – is pleased with us He will, reward us with PARADISE, which is a place of happiness and joy.

MAKE A PROMISE: I SHALL ALWAYS SPEAK THE TRUTH.

WORDS AND ACTIONS SHOULD BE SAME

There once was a boy who loved eating sweets. He always asked for sweets from his father. His father was a poor man. He could not always afford sweets for his son. But the little boy did not understand this, and demanded sweets all the time.

The boy's father thought hard about how to stop the child asking for so many sweets. There was a very holy man living nearby at that time. The boy's father had an idea. He decided to take the boy to the great man who might be able to persuade the child to stop asking for sweets all the time.

The boy and his father went along to the great man. The father said to him, "O great saint, could you ask my son to stop asking for sweets which I cannot afford?" The great man was in difficulty, because he liked sweets himself. How could he ask the boy to give up asking for sweets? The holy man told the father to bring his son back after one month.



During that month, the holy man gave up eating sweets, and when the boy and his father returned after a month, the holy man said to the boy "My dear child, will you stop asking for sweets which your father cannot afford to give you?"

From then on, the boy stopped asking for sweets.

The boy's father asked the saint, "Why did you not ask my son to give up asking for sweets when we came to you a month ago?"

The saint replied, "How could I ask a boy to give up sweets when I loved sweets myself. In the last month I gave up eating sweets."

A person's example is much more powerful than just his words. When we ask someone to do something, we must do it ourselves also. We should not ask others to do what we do not do ourselves.

ALWAYS MAKE SURE THAT YOUR ACTIONS AND YOUR WORDS ARE SAME.

FIVE BASIC DUTIES OF ISLĀM

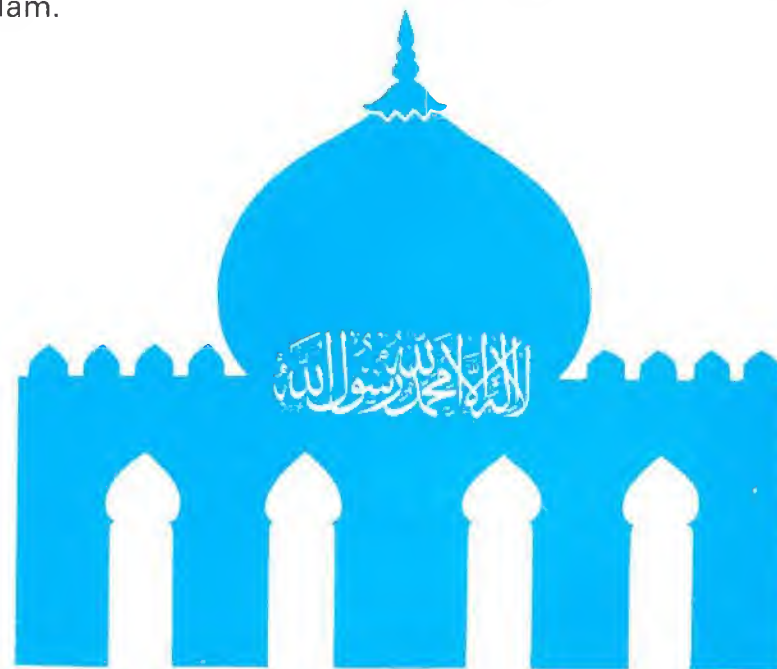
We are Muslims. We must do some basic duties as Muslims.

What are these basic duties?

These duties are five :

- 1 ASH-SHAHĀDAH (The declaration of faith)
- 2 AṢ-ṢALĀH (Five compulsory daily prayers)
- 3 AZ-ZAKĀH (Welfare contribution)
- 4 AṢ-ṢAWM (Fasting during Ramadān)
- 5 AL-ḤAJJ (Pilgrimage to Makkah)

These five duties are called ARKĀNAL ISLĀM or Pillars of Islām.



Ṣalāh

Zakāh

Shahādah

Ṣawm

Ḥajj

ASH-SHAHĀDAH (The declaration of faith)

What is Ash-Shahādah?

Ash-Shahādah is :

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

Lā Ilaha Illāl Lāhu Muḥammadur Rasūlul lāh.

This means : There is no god but Allāh; Muḥammad is the messenger of Allāh.

It is also called KALIMAH ṬAYYIBAH.

Ash-Shahādah is the first duty of a Muslim.

A person becomes a Muslim by reciting and believing in Ash-Shahādah. In Ash-Shahādah, we declare that Allāh is our Maker and Lord. He has made us and has given us all that we have. We also say in Ash-Shahādah that Muḥammad (pbuh) is the messenger of Allāh. He is our real Leader who showed us the right path.

Muḥammad (pbuh) was sent to show us the right way and the straight path. He is our Teacher. He is the last of the messengers of Allāh.

We must remember that we must also also believe in the angels, the books of Allāh, the day of judgement, the destiny and the life after death.

AṢ-ṢALĀH (Daily Prayer)

The second important duty of a Muslim is Aṣ-Ṣalāh.

What is Aṣ-Ṣalāh?

Aṣ-Ṣalāh is the five daily prayers which a Muslim must say.

Why should we offer Ṣalāh?

We offer Ṣalāh to remember Allāh, to be close to Him and to gain His favour.

It helps us to get used to doing what Allāh commands us. It also helps us to do good things and give up bad things.

This is why Allāh says in the Qur'ān :

“Surely ṣalāh keeps you away from the indecent and the forbidden.”

We must pray to be good Muslims. Allāh loves good Muslims. You cannot be a good Muslim if you do not pray. Allāh, too, will not be pleased with you.

What are the five compulsory prayers that are said each day?

The five prayers are :

- | | | |
|---|---------|--|
| 1 | FAJR | at dawn until before sunrise; |
| 2 | ẒUHR | after mid-day until late afternoon; |
| 3 | 'AṢR | in late afternoon until before sunset; |
| 4 | MĀGHRIB | after sunset until it is dark; |
| 5 | 'ISHĀ' | at night until midnight or before dawn |

One unit of prayer is called a Raka'h.

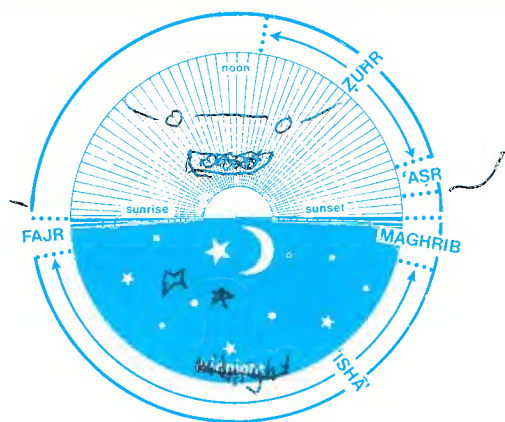
Compulsory prayer is called Farḍ.

Prayers which the prophet said other than Farḍ are called Sunnah.

Optional prayers are called Nafil.

TABLE OF RAKA'HS IN FIVE PRAYERS

RAKA'HS OF SALAH				
Fajr	Zuhr	'Asr	Maghrib	'Isha'
2 Sunnah	4 Sunnah	4 Sunnah	3 Farḍ	4 Sunnah
2 Farḍ	4 Farḍ	(optional)	2 Sunnah	(optional)
-	2 Sunnah	4 Farḍ	2 Nafl	4 Farḍ
-	2 Nafl	-	-	2 Sunnah
-	-	-	-	2 Nafl
-	-	-	-	3 Witr
-	-	-	-	2 Nafl



We should start praying when we are seven years old.

We must not miss any prayer when we are ten years old.

Ṣalāh makes us obedient to Allāh. Allāh will give us fine reward for our Ṣalāh in the Ākhirah.*

worksheet 8

Answer these questions :

1 What are the five basic duties of a Muslim?

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 5 _____

2 What is the Declaration of Faith? _____

3 What is Aṣ-Ṣalāh? _____

4 Write the names of the five daily prayers of Muslims :

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 5 _____

AZ-ZAKĀH (welfare contribution)

The third basic duty of Islām is Az-Zakāh.

What is Az-Zakāh?

Az-Zakāh is an act of worship ('Ibādah). It is the payment of money which a Muslim makes towards the cost of welfare.

What are the welfare purposes?

Welfare purposes are : helping the poor, the needy and people in all sorts of trouble.

Who must pay Zakāh?

Zakāh must be paid by those Muslims who have more money than they need to spend. Zakāh is paid on every year's savings, the money which a Muslim has not spent.

How much must be paid?

The payment is two and a half pence for each pound or 100 pence on cash and the value of gold and silver jewellery. There is a different rate for cattle and agricultural produce.

We and our wealth belong to Allāh. Allāh gave us all that we have. So, we must share our extra money with our fellow people who are in hardship.

Allāh will give us more if we pay Zakāh.



AŞ-ŞAWM (fasting)

Aş-Şawm is the fourth main duty of Islām.

What is Aş-Şawm?

Aş-Şawm is fasting in the month of Ramaḍān every year.

What is fasting?

Fasting is not eating, drinking (or smoking) during the daytime.

When must we fast?

Each day in the month of Ramaḍān, from dawn to sunset.

Why must we fast?

We must fast to gain Allāh's favour and keep ourselves away from greed and selfishness.

What else is special about the month of Ramaḍān?

In the month of Ramaḍān, we pray Tarāwīḥ after 'Ishā'. We take a meal before dawn called SUḤŪR.

In the month of Ramaḍān, there is a night which is better than a thousand months. This night is called LAILATUL QADR (Night of Power). It falls within the last ten days of the month of Ramaḍān. We should pray as much as we can on this night.

What is the festival which follows Ramaḍān.

The festival after the month of Ramaḍān is 'ĪDUL FIṬR. This day is a day of thanksgiving to Allāh. It is a happy occasion for Muslims.

We must remember that we must not lie, break our promise and do wrong things while we fast in Ramaḍān.

Ramaḍān is a month of great blessings and mercy from Allāh. It is the month of forgiveness.

O ALLĀH, HELP US TO FAST IN RAMAḌĀN TO PLEASE YOU.

AL-ḤAJJ (pilgrimage to Makkah)

Ḥajj is the fifth basic duty of Islām.

What is Ḥajj?

Ḥajj is a visit to Al-Ka'bah in Makkah, during Dhul Ḥijjah, by those Muslims who can afford the trip. A Muslim tries to make the pilgrimage at least once in a life-time.

Ḥajj is an act of worship, an act of 'Ibādah. 'Ibādah is any activity done to gain Allāh's favour.

What is Al-Ka'bah?

Al-Ka'bah is the House of Allāh in Makkah. It is also called BAITULLĀH. It is a cube-shaped building covered by a large black cloth. Muslims face towards Al-Ka'bah at the time of Ṣalāh.

Who built Al-Ka'bah?

It was first built by the first prophet Ādam (pbuh). It was rebuilt by the prophets Ibrahīm and Ismā'īl (pbuh). It is the first house built on earth for the worship of Allāh.

Ḥajj is a great event for the Muslims. During Ḥajj, Muslims from all over the world get together in Makkah. It is a yearly gathering of Muslims.

There is a festival which comes during Ḥajj. This festival is called 'ĪDUL AḌḤĀ. It is observed to remember the great event of the sacrifice of the prophet Ismā'īl (pbuh) by his father prophet Ibrahīm.

Ḥajj teaches us that we belong to Allāh only. So, we must always do as Allāh commands.

worksheet 9

Answer these questions :

- 1 What is Az-Zakāh? _____

- 2 When do the Muslims fast? _____

- 3 Why do we fast? _____

- 4 What are the two festivals of Islām?
1 _____
- 5 What is Ḥajj? _____

- 6 Where do we go for Ḥajj? _____
- 7 Who built Al-Ka'bah? _____

ISLAMIC MANNERS

Say *Bismillāh* (in the name of Allāh) when doing something.

Say *Assalāmu 'Alaikum* (peace be on you) when meeting a Muslim.

Say *Wa'alaikumus salām* (peace be on you too) in reply.

Say *Inshā' Allāh* (if Allāh wishes) when hoping to do something.

Say *Subḥanallāh* (Glory to Allāh) to praise someone.

Say *Mā shā Allāh* (what Allāh likes) in appreciation.

Say *Fi Āmanillāh* (in the protection of Allāh) when seeing someone off.

Say *Jazakallāhu Khairan* (may Allāh give you the best reward) to thank someone.

Say *Tawakkaltu 'Alāllāh* (I rely on Allāh) to solve a problem.

Say *Lā Ilāha Illal Lāh* (there is no god but Allāh) when getting up in the morning.

Say *Alḥamdu lillāh* (praise be to Allāh) when you sneeze.

Say *Yarḥamukallāh* (may Allāh bless you) when you hear someone sneeze.

Say *Āmīn* (accept our prayer) when joining a Du'ā'.

Say *Yā Allāh* (O Allāh) when in pain or distress.

Say *Astagfirullāh* (O Allāh forgive me) to be sorry for a bad action.

Say *Na'udhubillāh* (we seek refuge from Allāh) to show your dislike.

Say *Innā lillāh* (We are for Allāh) when you hear about the death of a Muslim.

ISLAMIC MONTHS

Muḥarram, Ṣafar, Rab'īul Awwāl, Rab'īul Ākhir, Jumadal 'Ulā, Jumadal 'Ukhrā, Rajab, Sha'bān, Ramaḍān, Shawwāl, Dhul Qa'dah, Dhul Hijjah.

Islamic months are counted according to the moon. They are Lunar months. An Islamic year has 354 or 355 days. Christian or Gregorian months are counted according to the sun. They are Solar months. A Christian or Gregorian year has 365 or 366 days.

All Islamic festivals are observed according to the actual sighting of the moon. That is why Islamic festival dates are not the same every year.

FOUR SŪRAHS OF THE QUR'ĀN

1 AL-FĀTIHAH

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ
صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

Bismillāhir raḥmānir raḥīm

Alḥamdu lillāhi rabbil 'alāmīn

Arraḥmānir raḥīm

Māliki yawmiddīn

Iyyāka na 'budu wa iyyāka nasta'in

Ihdinaṣ ṣiratal mustaqīm

Ṣirāṭal ladhīna an 'amta 'alaihim

Ghairil maghdūbi 'alaihim wa laḍ ḍāllīn (Āmīn)

Meaning :

In the name of Allāh, the most Merciful, the most Kind.

All praise is for Allāh, the Lord of the worlds,

The most Merciful, the most Kind :

Master of the Day of Judgment,

You alone we worship and you alone we ask for help.

Guide us along the straight way,

The way of those whom you have favoured;

and not of those who earn your anger nor of those who go astray.

2 AL-IKHLĀṢ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ ۝ اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ ۝ لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ ۝ وَلَمْ يَكُن لَّهُ
كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ ۝

Bismillāhir raḥmānir raḥīm

Qul huwallāhu aḥad

Allāhuṣ ṣamad

Lam yalid wa lam yūlad

Wa lam ya kul lahu kufuwan aḥad

Meaning :

In the name of Allāh, the most Merciful, the most Kind.

Say He is Allāh, the One.

Allāh is Eternal and Absolute.

None is born of Him nor is He born.

and there is none like Him.

3 AL-KAWTHAR

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
إِنَّا آعْطَيْنَاكَ الْكَوْثَرَ ۝ فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَانْحَرْ ۝ إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ ۝

Bismillāhir raḥmānir raḥīm

Innā a'tainakal kawthar,

Faṣalli Lirabbika wanḥar

Inna shāniaka huwal abtar.

Meaning :

In the name of Allāh, the most Merciful, the most Kind.

Indeed, we have given you the Kauthar (Abundance or Fountain);

So pray to your Lord and make sacrifice

Surely your hater is the one cut off.

4 AL-'AṢR

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَالْعَصْرِ ۝ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ ۝ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ ۝

Bismillāhir raḥmānir raḥīm

Wal 'aṣri

Innal Insāna lafi khusrin

illal ladhīna āmanu wa 'amiluṣ ṣāliḥāti

wa tawa ṣawbil Ḥaqqi wa tawa ṣawbiṣ ṣabri

Meaning :

I swear by the flight of time!

that man is surely in loss,

except those who have faith and do good works,

and encourage one another to follow the Truth and

encourage to be steadfast.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Glorious Qur'an

M. M. Pickthall, Karachi, 1973

Ṣaḥīḥ Al-Bukhārī

Eng. Trans. M. Muḥsin Khan, Madinah, 1973

Towards Understanding Islam

Abul A'lā' Mawdūdī, Eng. Trans. Leicester, 1979

Islam in Focus

Ḥamudah 'Abdal 'Aṭī, Kuwait, 1977

Introduction to Islām

M. Ḥamidullāh, London, 1979

Islām - faith and practice

M. M. Aḥsan, Leicester, 1977

The Prophets

S. 'Alī Ashrāf, London, 1980

Islām - beliefs and teachings

Ghulam Sarwar, London, 1984

Lessons from the stories of the Qur'an

A. M. Rāja Muḥājir, Lahore, 1973

The Children's book of Islām, Part I and II

Islamic Foundation, Leicester, 1979

Love all creatures

Islamic Foundation, Leicester, 1981

A great friend of children

Islamic Foundation, Leicester, 1981

The Children's book of Ṣalāh

Ghulam Sarwar, London, 1984

Elementary teachings of Islām

'Abdul 'Alim Ṣiddiqi, London.

Dawn of Islām

Muslim Welfare House, London, 1976

The First Man on Earth

Muslim Welfare House, London, 1979

Islām for Children

Aḥmad Von Denffer, Leicester, 1981

ISLĀM FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE is intended for children aged six to eleven years. It outlines the basic beliefs of Islām and presents a brief sketch of the life of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), the five basic Islamic duties, a selection of stories and four short sūrah's (chapters) of the Qur'ān. The author has attempted to present the topics in lucid and easily understood language. This book will go a long way towards laying down the initial foundation on which a child will grow as a Muslim within non-Muslim society.

GHULAM SARWAR is the Director of the Muslim Educational Trust. He has an Honours Degree in Commerce and a Masters Degree in Management from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. For three years he taught Business Management in the City College, Chittagong, Bangladesh (1966-1968) and since the early sixties he is actively involved in the Islamic Da'wah work. His written works include: *Islām: Beliefs and Teachings* (London, 3rd Edition 1984), *Syllabus and Guidelines for Islamic Teaching* (London, 2nd Edition 1984), *Muslims and Education in the U.K.* (London, 1983), *Books on Islām in English* (London, 1983), and *The Children's Book of Salāh* (London, 1984).

THE MUSLIM EDUCATIONAL TRUST is an educational organisation formed in 1966 to cater for the Islamic educational needs of Muslim children in the United Kingdom. Its activities include sending Islamic teachers to the State-run Secondary and Primary Schools, arranging Weekend and Evening schools, preparation and publication of Islamic text books and teaching aids for children and promoting a better understanding of Islam among all sections of the British Society.

ISBN 0 907261-08-6

Price in UK £

ISLAM for Younger People

Ghulam
Sarwar

THE MUSLIM EDUCATIONAL TRUST